

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 19, 2006, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 of the application as anticipated by the published U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0002605 of Morawski, et al. By the present amendment, applicant has canceled the rejected claims and has substituted new claims 3-13 which, it is submitted, are free of objection and are patentable over the cited reference and any other prior art of record. Claims 3-13 are also well supported by the disclosure of the invention in the specification.

The sole cited reference, Morawski, et al., is directed to a decorated personal grooming device, i.e., a toothbrush, that comprises a handle, a portion of which is covered by a heat-shrinkable film having a decorative pattern thereon. That film may comprise poly (ethylene-1, 4 cyclohexylenedimethylene terephthalate) (paragraph 0051).

By marked contrast, Applicant's invention as presently claimed in claims 3-13 consists of a molded article in the nature of a dental prosthesis or appliance selected from the group consisting of a temporary crown, a denture base, an artificial tooth and an orthodontic device. These articles share no common characteristics with the decorative toothbrush handle disclosed by Morawski, et al. The claimed articles are intended to be installed for long-term residence in the oral cavity, as opposed to briefly contacting the teeth for cleansing purposes. Indeed, Morawski's teachings do not even relate to the portion of a toothbrush that comes into contact with the teeth, but only to the handle thereof. Further, the claimed articles belong to the arts of prosthodontics and orthodontics, while the toothbrush of Morawski, et al. relates to oral hygiene and cleansing. No skilled worker in the arts of prosthodontics or orthodontics seeking to develop improved molded articles for crowns, false teeth, orthodontic appliances and the like would consider the materials or

processes used to produce a toothbrush handle to be relevant in any way. The former articles must reside in the oral cavity on a continuous basis, sometimes for years, without degrading structurally or cosmetically and without releasing harmful chemicals or by-products. These issues are totally irrelevant to the material of which a toothbrush handle that does not even contact the teeth is composed.

In fact, Morawski, et al. do not even disclose novel compositions or materials for producing a toothbrush handle, but merely a novel decorative film to be applied to said handle or a portion thereof to create a decorative appearance. Thus, the disclosure cited by the Examiner of the use of poly (ethylene-1, 4 cyclohexylenedimethylene terephthalate) by Morawski, et al. relates only to the decorative heat-shrinkable film applied to a toothbrush handle, and not to the resin materials of which the molded toothbrush is itself constituted. Here, by contrast, the applicant's molded articles are themselves composed of the disclosed copolymer resin and do not bear any decorative surface film.

No worker of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention applies would look to the art of creating toothbrush handles or decorative films therefor in seeking to develop new molded articles for long term prosthodontic or orthodontic use in the oral cavity. The disclosures of Morawski, et al. teach nothing about the materials to be used in forming such molded articles for improved physical characteristics and to avoid elution of harmful chemicals.

It has thus been shown that the claims presently standing in the application are neither anticipated by nor obvious in light of the cited Morawski, et al. reference nor any other art of record. It is submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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